

# The BEACON

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

THE NEWS OF TODAY REPORTED BY THE JOURNALISTS OF TOMORROW

Volume 63 Issue 17

**CASINO NIGHT  
YIELDS RECORD  
TURNOUT**

**LIFE | PAGE 11**

## Education system needs work

*Workforce and higher education hearing presents issues for NEPA*

BY JACQUELINE LUKAS  
Editor-in-Chief

With the recent cuts in education, many people in higher education and from the local workforce expressed uncertainty about the future during the hearing on "Reviving our Economy: The Role of Higher Education in Job Growth and Development" on Monday, March 21 at Wilkes University.

Congressman John Kline (R-Minnesota), chairman of the committee on education and the workforce, held a hearing in conjunction with Congressman Lou Barletta (R-Hazleton) with two panels of individuals and the overall mood of the hearing was that of addressing educational needs.

In his opening remarks, Barletta assured Kline he would leave Wilkes University "with a very clear picture of how Northeast Pennsylvania is taking strides to reviving our economy to a higher quality of higher education."

"After years of tough economic times, it is clear we need to get our

economy moving again, and people back to work," said Barletta. "That is why we are here today."

The first panel, which included James Perry, president of the Hazleton City Council, and Jeffrey Alesson, vice president of strategic planning and quality assurance at Diamond Manufacturing, expressed concern about high school level education.

Perry said there needs to be more collaboration and communication between high schools and colleges for new and emerging fields.

"In talking to students at all levels, faculty, administration and parents, there is a common thread that is evident in what our communities need from our local colleges and universities and that is a lack of communication and the need for more collaboration," Perry said.

Perry said one way to do this is more cooperative education opportunities because these opportunities necessary to high school students. Also, Perry said standardized testing required by the state of Pennsylvania limits valuable

teaching time.

Alesson then stressed the need for communication and problem solving skills at Diamond Manufacturing. He said people coming into the work force are not currently prepared with these skills and Diamond Manufacturing has to work with these employees to obtain these skill types.

"While it is important that today's graduates are technically competent, I feel that it is equally important that they be competent in the areas of communications and problem solving," Alesson said. "Companies in today's competitive environment live and die by their ability to communicate effectively."

Barletta said Partners in Education, a project that he is "very proud of," brings together local industries, school districts and students. PIE shows students the local opportunities that exist for them, allows local industry to talk to students about the basic work skills

SEE EDUCATION, Page 3



The Beacon/Allison Roth

## Sterling on life support

High school students protested the potential demolition of the Hotel Sterling building last week. The building is a historical landmark for the city, but because renovation plans have fallen through, it was announced it will be destroyed.



The Beacon/Laura Preby  
Einstein offers breakfast and lunch foods to students, teachers and the general public.

## Einstein Bros. Bagels may be replaced

BY DEVONI NOVAK  
Staff Writer

Einstein Brothers Bagels may no longer occupy the café space in UCOM after its five-year contract runs out this summer. The university is undecided about whether or not to renew the contract.

"It depends on what the students would like," said Helen Hoban, district manager for Sodexo, the

company which handles Wilkes' on-campus dining.

However, there are mixed feelings about whether Einstein should stay or go. The fate of Einstein will be a university decision based on student feedback from questionnaires.

"Based on the sales it's not terribly popular," Hoban said. "That's one of the reasons why we're looking at other options. We'd like to

find something that students may use more and enjoy more."

To determine what the students want, a flavor profile survey was sent out two weeks ago in which general questions were asked to determine the university's dining preferences. The questionnaire asked questions about what kinds of foods they liked and if they preferred 'on the go' or 'sit down.'

SEE EINSTEIN, Page 4

Opinion Pages 6-8

### U.S. foreign involvement

The U.S. should not jump into foreign conflicts in which they are not directly involved.

PAGE 8

Life Pages 9-12

### Embroidery Workshop

Members of the Polish Room host a workshop to teach members and non-members how to sew an Easter towel.

PAGE 10

Arts & Entertainment Pages 13-15

### There's no place like Farley

Home to more than just academic journals, the Farley Library boasts an impressive collection of cinema.

PAGE 13

Sports Pages 16-20

### Tennis Teammates

Seniors Adam Coombs and Wes McCollum have been teammates and roommates for three years.

PAGE 16



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MARCH 29, 2011

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# P3 students request exemption from activity fees

BY AMANDA LEONARD  
Assistant News Editor

Pharmacy Senate is currently seeking alternative ways to allocate funds with a petition or possible constitutional amendment. In the past, outside funds were more prevalent and accessible.

Recently, Student Government considered granting funds to Pharmacy Senate, but could not due to pharmacy's exclusivity as a professional academic organization. Pharmacy students are looking for a change that would not only benefit them, but other professional student groups as well.

Dean Mark Allen, SG adviser, noted SG does not recognize clubs or organizations that are exclusive in terms of funding. P3 pharmacy students decided to create a petition and bypass Student Government's aid.

"I certainly recognize the concern from the pharmacy students that they need a steady stream of funding to support their educational program initiatives," he said.

The petition requests P3 and higher pharmacy students to be exempted from paying the required activities fee and keep the money within their program.

Greg Castelli, P3 pharmacy student and president of Pharmacy Senate, said that the petition originated in the P3 class.

"It arose because P3 students felt that we aren't really getting enough benefits from the money we are paying into the school," he said.

Last spring, Pharmacy Senate attempted to get onto SG's budget, but was not allowed to because of its exclusivity.

"We know that SG is taking some actions to fix it, but in the past we have not been able to go there for help for conferences and additional funds," he said.

Benjamin Beidel, SG president, is working with the pharmacy students to figure out a solution.



The Beacon/Laura Preby  
**Pharmacy students attend a pharmacotherapy of CNS disorders class. P3 students signed a petition stating that they would prefer their activity fees be kept within their program, to aid in the funding of professional development.**

"It is SG's position to consider any complaints related to student life brought to it by anyone of the university community and properly investigate," he said. "We have done so and have taken measures to amend our constitution to reflect that, but have placed them on hold in light of the petition."

Castelli also said some pharmacy students feel as if they are not benefiting from paying this fee to SG and since they are considered graduate students, in terms of tuition and credits, they should not be required to pay the activities fee.

If exempted from the fees, the money would help defray costs that they often have to pay without funding.

"We really want to work with students to get an idea of where the money will be used," Castelli said. "People who brought up the idea already have ideas of what they want to do."

Most of the money will be used towards professional development and resume building skills.

"We want to help develop our students professionally whether that's paying for CPR first aid courses that they have to pay for, sending them to conferences or to annual meetings," he said.

Allen said the younger pharmacy students would benefit as well because the money being used for professional development would most likely trickle down to their classes and funds.

Pharmacy Senate's current funds are dwindling and a loss of between \$5,000 and \$6,000 will also need to be accounted into their yearly budget. The lack of funds may have been an issue in the past but Castelli noted that no one had spoken up about it.

"As undergraduates, we took advantage of our student activity fees and this year it's kind of the fact that we're trying to make ourselves better professionally so we can look better on resumes when we're trying to get jobs," he said. "We're moving away from all the Casino Nights and all the fun activities to help develop ourselves professionally."

All P3 students signed the petition. Information will be discussed with undergraduate pharmacy students about future funding during informative meetings.

Beidel said at this point, SG will make sure that pharmacy students are properly informed of what the removal of their activity fee means, including their forfeiture of any undergraduate status.

"SG will discuss and vote on the proposal as a group and send either a favoring or opposing message to the President's cabinet with our collective reasoning for doing so and any alternatives that may feel appropriate," he said.

However, both Allen and Castelli believe that the petition is gaining more momentum and pharmacy students have more motivation behind it.

"The amendment has been slowed down until we determine where the petition will end up going," Allen said. "There needs to be some sort of answer and clarification."

There will be an informational forum at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13 for any interested students to discuss the issues of the fees and to clear up any misinformation about it.

"I think it's important that students come out and hear whatever everyone has to say, to either confirm or retract their signing of the petition," Castelli said.

Allen noted that the even if pharmacy students do get the funding, there will still be unanswered questions.

"If either pass, it still leaves a degree of uncertainty as to how much each year would be dedicated to pharmacy students, because they're part of the governance process," Allen said. "But they need a steady, fixed dollar amount which is based on P3 student activity fees."

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### Meet the Staff



Todd Oravic  
Staff Writer



# Safe Rides hits rough patch, few students misusing program

BY KIRSTIN COOK  
News Editor

A few students have been using the Safe Rides program as their personal cab service.

If students are intoxicated or concerned about friends driving while under the influence, Wilkes provides the Safe Rides program to transport students back to campus safely. However, some students have been abusing this option and using it for purposes other than this intention.

Mark Allen, dean of student services, said health and wellness services uses the cab bills to record the locations that students are traveling to and from via Safe Rides. These bills showed students taking trips from points on-campus to off-campus locations, riding from off-campus spots to other off-campus places and calling cabs in the early morning or daytime.

Allen said these types of rides are most likely not related to alcohol and therefore not following the goal of the program.

"It is a program that is limited to people who are either under the influence or with someone who is under the influence, and they feel they need a safe way back to campus," Allen said.

The Safe Rides program is funded by an alcohol education account. Allen explained that if the program is not being used for alcohol awareness purposes, it is taking

resources away from other anti-alcohol programs.

"We want to maximize the use of that money. And we are still committed to the program because it's good, we just want it to function as it's supposed to," Allen said.

Another issue that has also developed over the last few months has been some select instances of rude students, which have led cab drivers to submit complaints to the university.

Allen said that the issues are isolated, and Student Services is trying to intervene early before a crisis develops. He hopes that increased awareness of the program's intent and reminders to students to be courteous to drivers will eliminate these problems.

However, there is a risk the abuse will increase and the program would have to be eliminated.

"Certainly if the trend were to continue, there is not appropriate usage or the cab company had particular problems dealing with problematic students to where they felt they wouldn't do it anymore, that would be the risk, but I don't think we're there yet," Allen said.

Even though the cases of rude students have been limited, Allen said they harm the reputation of the school as a whole and may cause the cab company, Posten Transportation, to abandon the program.

"When even isolated incidents come up, then it reflects badly on the university, and also we don't want to have the cab company come to a point and say 'Gee, we don't want



The Beacon/Laura Preby

**Posten Transportation provides cab services for the Safe Rides program. The intention of the program is to provide safe transportation back to campus for students in endangering situations involving alcohol consumption.**

to provide this service anymore," Allen said.

Allen would like to bring more publicity to Safe Rides to clarify the objective of the service. He also noted that many students are unaware of the program altogether, so awareness would allow them to take advantage of it for alcohol-safety reasons.

There is information about Safe Rides in the student handbook, but Allen said he would like to see this material more acces-

sible to give students awareness about the purpose of the service.

"I think we could probably be doing a better job at creating awareness through our office to students as to what is appropriate and what is not appropriate," Allen said.

Allen said he does not want to place unnecessary burdens on the cab company, so having cab drivers decide what locations are

**SEE SAFE RIDES, Page 5**

## EDUCATION

Continued from FRONT PAGE

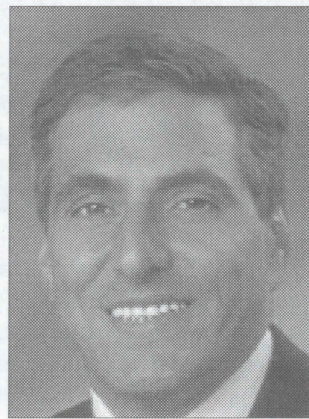
needed and helps school districts to teach basic work skills.

The second panel dealt with higher education and education after high school: Dr. Reynold Verret, provost of Wilkes University; Raymond Angeli, president of Lackawanna College; Joan Seaman, executive director of Empire Beauty Schools; and Thomas P. Leary, president of Luzerne County Community College.

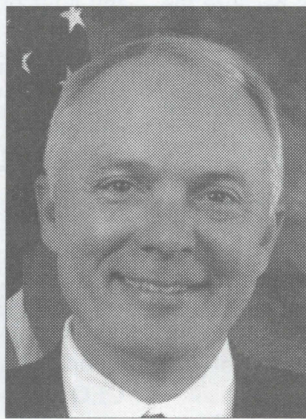
Verret said there is a great financial need for Pell Grants because about 36 percent of Wilkes students receive this type of funding in order to attend Wilkes University.

He also pointed out that first-year students arriving at Wilkes are not prepared for the college experience and that high school students need to come out of college with basic skills.

"Too many high school graduates arrive ill-prepared for college," Verret said.



BARLETTA



KLINE

Angeli said he wants to keep students in the area for college and wants to get that message out to high school students.

"We really want to send the message down to the high school level that says, 'Whatever you need to do, whatever you want to do with your future in education, one of (the NEPA colleges) has the ability to offer that to you,'" Angeli said.

Angeli said that the challenge is getting students to stay in the area and pursue higher education.

Seaman said that higher education is very important to reviving the education in NEPA; she used her own lifelong career in the beauty industry as an example. Seaman has been with Wyoming Valley campus of Empire Beauty School for 35 years and her job involves creating a "total quality school" for students.

"The cosmetology industry and professional beauty industry can and should be looked upon as part of the solution to our economic recovery," Seaman said.

She also mentioned that job opportunities for cosmetologists and beauty professionals would increase by about 20 percent, which is much faster than other fields.

Leary said that community colleges play a key role in higher education and now,

more than ever, the economy has greatly impacted community colleges like LCCC.

"During the current economic climate, with record numbers finding themselves unemployed, the impact community colleges has increased dramatically with more and more individuals looking to our institutions to train and re-train them so that they can gain a competitive advantage in today's limited workforce," Leary said.

Leary said that LCCC has a different goal than other colleges and universities because they have the task of keeping community colleges affordable and accessible to students.

He said that increasing tuition could be the difference between going to college and not going to college for those students who are just outside of the realm of financial aid.

"If the Pell cuts proposed in HR 1 are approved, many of these students will not have adequate resources to go to college," Leary said.

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# Students petition to re-open Towers stairwell

*Residence Life limited building access to monitor activity for safety reasons*

BY EMMA ZIMMERMAN  
Correspondent

Safety outweighs convenience.

That's the reasoning behind the Office of Residence Life's decision to close the stairwells in University Towers and force all of the building's residents to exit through the lobby. But the decision isn't sitting well with the nearly 170 students that signed a petition to get the building's stairwells re-opened.

Over spring break, Residence Life sent a memo to University Towers' Resident Assistants concerning the closing of the stairwell except for in the case of an emergency. Residence Life's main concern is that the building is susceptible to people, other than students, entering.

"We want to make this a better situation," Residence Life Director Elizabeth Swantek said.

The stairwell is still open for students living in the residence hall to travel from floor to floor.

The decision was made to remedy past complaints about theft in the Towers building.

"Multiple people will walk in with one swipe of a card and some are not students," Swantek said. "People wouldn't ask if they don't recognize someone. Our main concern is assaults. We want to maximize security."

The problem of non-students using a card swipe has been ongoing. Students who are not Towers' residents are to sign in at the main desk. When Residence Life went to inspect Towers, Swantek said front desk managers let them in without question.

"It just happens so readily," she said.

While most buildings on campus always

had one entrance, Towers has two entrances and there is no one to look after the back entrance.

"There are no cameras back (at the back entrance)," she said. "There is a camera out front and a desk manned through the high traffic times of the day."

With the stairwell closed, students will have to take the elevator even if they are on the first or second floors. Towers resident Shawn Bookwalter, who is a P2 pharmacy major, started a petition against the decision and received nearly 170 signatures.

"I took everyone's ideas and put it in words," Bookwalter said. "If given more time, I think more people would have been outspoken."

In the petition, Bookwalter expresses concerns such as class tardiness that may be caused due to the influx of students using the elevator.

"It doesn't affect me as much on the first floor," he said. "People on the upper floors, however, are waiting for the elevator to come up from me taking it from the first floor, and it hinders their time. Now they'll have to leave a couple minutes early for classes."

Bookwalter met with Residence Life this past Thursday and presented his petition. The closing of the stairwell is temporary and a long term solution is being planned.

"We want to have an architect come in and have it so there's access to the stairwell from the main door," Swantek said. No date is set for the improvement in Towers because the building will need to be inspected regarding the fire code in order to see how the lobby can be extended and a door put in leading to the stairs.

"(The long term plan) would take awhile,"



The Beacon/Austin Loukas

**Students pack into one of the two University Towers elevators. Residence Life recently closed the building stairwell, so students are restricted to using the elevators to enter and exit the building.**

Bookwalter said. "They did mention they'd be willing to make compromises."

In the petition, he outlined several possibilities including having the stairwell open during normal university hours.

"They're concerned with safety and assault, but a higher portion of assaults occur in the evening hours," he said.

"It is a problem that anyone can walk in," Swantek said. "Assaults can happen any hour of the day. We felt it was the best choice."

Bookwalter's main objection is how the closing of the stairwell only offers students one other option. "It's basically locking us in," he said. "It's similar to living at home

under parents' rule which isn't why we come to live on campus in college."

"The petition did bring up important concerns," Swantek said. "If anyone has any ideas we haven't heard yet, come and talk to me or Dean Allen."

The decision directly affects not only students but faculties who also are in the building and will take some getting used to.

"Does it concern residents? Yes. Is it cultural change? Yes," Swantek said. "The stairs are more convenient, but safety outweighs convenience."

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## EINSTEIN

Continued from FRONT PAGE

Regardless of what decision is made, Einstein employees will remain. In the case that Einstein is eliminated, current employees will work at whatever new venue is moved into UCOM. Some employees are anxious about the possible change.

Janine Davis, an Einstein employee, said she doesn't think the contract would be renewed.

"I think the students, faculty and staff would like something different here after five years," she said. "They're tired of the same menu."

However, not all students would agree.

"I love Einstein ... they definitely should renew it, this is the place where everybody comes," said Alexandra Paranc, a freshman business administration major.

Dan McColgan, senior electric engineering major, also thinks that Einstein should stay.

"Einstein Bagels has been there for a while, it has a reputation on campus and it is part of our school identity," said McColgan. "Whatever is put in its place won't be as popular."

Terrence Ives, sophomore business administration major, said that if it was replaced, they should choose a similar coffee shop.

"I think they should keep Einstein. If they

were to release Einstein from the contract they should consider another breakfast or coffee venue to put in its place," Ives said.

Nick Wesley, entrepreneurship major and CEO of Conscious Advertising, said he needs to know more about the possible replacements before he can make an opinion on whether he believes if Einstein should stay or go. Wesley, who is a sophomore, has

enjoyed Einstein for the time he has been at Wilkes thus far.

"Before I can make a decision I need to know what the other options are," said Wesley, "But so far Einstein has served me well."

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GO!



**SAFE RIDES**

Continued from FRONT PAGE

appropriate for the program scope would be impractical.

If students feel like they are in an unsafe environment, Allen said he could justify students using the service even if this situation does not involve alcohol.

"That would be perceived as okay, that's a common safety issue -- although it's not alcohol-related, the intent there is one of safety," Allen said.

Allen said he could even consider broadening the definition of the program to focus on unsafe situations in general. However, his main concern is on other uses, such as students using the program to get a ride to the mall.

"The issue would be more so to, having gone to Wal-Mart to shop and calling the cab to bring you back to campus," Allen said. "Unfortunately, as much as we would like to provide this concierge service, that's not what that program is funded for."

Allen suggested many alternatives for cases like this, such as getting rides with friends or through the Luzerne County Transportation System buses.

Another transportation service offered is

the escort service through Public Safety. Public Safety Manager Jerry Rebo said that this option is for emergencies, such as if a student is stranded. He said students need not be concerned about getting trouble if they use the service for an alcohol-related incident.

"Our rides, if we ever were to pick a student up that has been drinking, our intention is not calling the police, not getting them in trouble with student affairs - our job is to get them wherever they're going safely," Rebo said.

Rebo said that they have come across a few rude students through the escort service, but the majority are courteous.

Rebo agreed with Allen that Safe Rides is a useful program to have, and effectively deals with the most important matter on hand: safety.

"We support Safe Rides, it's a good indicator that the university does care for the students (and) that they get back safely," Rebo said.

The Safe Rides program has been established for about 15 or 20 years, and Allen said it has been working successfully up until now. He hopes the issues of abuse will not become a trend and threaten the program.

"We don't want it to go away," Allen said.

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**Student Gov't Notes - March 23**

**BY AMANDA LEONARD**

*Assistant News Editor*

**American Society of Mechanical Engineers fund request-** ASME requested \$2,006 to fund a car show that will be held on April 16. Cars have already preregistered for the show and more cars will show up on the day of the event. Motion passes 29-1-12.

**Relay for Life donation request-** Students requested a donation of \$3,000 to cover teams' registration fees. There are currently 19 teams registered, 14 of which are from Wilkes University. Fundraising for the event included bake sales, Bart and Urby's, Lucky's, Hardware Bar and Friendly's socials. Relay for life will be a 24-hour event to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Motion passes 27-3-10.

**Tom Bigler Journalism Conference fund request-** coordinators of the conference requested \$652.50 for T-shirts that will be given as prizes and to those who run and participate in the event. The conference

will bring in professionals from the area and local high schools will attend interactive sessions throughout the day. \$653 was allotted. Motion passes 29-0-11.

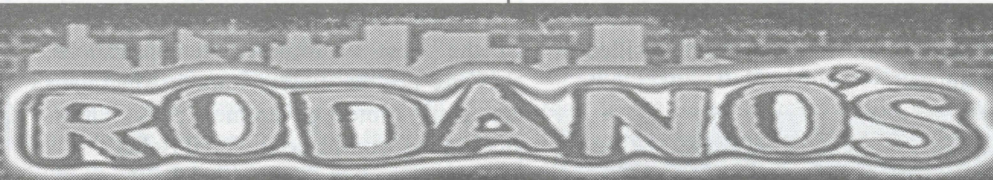
**Spring Fling budget update -** The Spring Fling budget will total \$11,096.13. One of the two photo booths have been eliminated to bring down the budget. There is a goal of 300 students to attend the event. Motion passes 29-0-11.

**Treasurer's Report:**

All College: \$1,834.42  
Conferences: \$11,900  
General Funds: \$ 6,550  
Leadership: \$3,199.00  
Spirit: \$2,000  
Special Projects: \$3,500  
Start Up: \$1,500  
Student Government Total: \$ 30,483.42

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## Anti-gay church's protests unpopular, yet legal

BY THE BEACON  
Editorial Board

Perhaps it's the controversial protest signs—the ones that say things like “God hates fags.”

It could be its uncanny ability to kick grieving families in the groin when they're already down by showing up and picketing a loved one's funeral.

Or maybe it's the organization's overall lack of respect for anyone who doesn't share the same religious beliefs as them.

For whatever reason, a lot of people simply do not like the Westboro Baptist Church.

The Kansas-based parish believes the deaths of American soldiers are God's punishment for the United States accepting homosexuals. And earlier this month, the Supreme Court ruled WBC protests of military funerals are protected under the First Amendment.

While many consider the WBC's hate-filled preaching severely misguided, *The*

*Beacon* supports the Supreme Court's decision.

Although many do not see eye-to-eye with the WBC, its members are also American citizens. Therefore, WBC parishioners are guaranteed the same rights as every other American.

Freedom of speech is one of the cornerstones of American society. Had the justices ruled the WBC didn't have the right to picket, it would have infringed on the First Amendment rights of WBC parishioners.

If everyone agreed about everything, there wouldn't be a reason to guarantee freedom of speech in the first place. In fact, freedom of speech exists to give dissenters a voice.

WBC members choose to use their voices to shout messages of hate.

Parishioners frequently traverse the country to picket high-profile events to gain maximum exposure for their cause. Last November, five WBC members were scheduled to picket the funeral of Hughestown's Dale Kridlo, an American soldier killed in Afghanistan.

The WBC never showed up, but the threat of its appearance caused uproar in the community.

Hundreds of people, who probably would not have attended Kridlo's funeral had the WBC not scheduled a protest, came out to pay tribute to the fallen soldier and thank him for serving his country.

More often than not, that's what a WBC protest looks like.

On one street corner, you've got the WBC holding signs that read “Mourn for your sins” and “America is doomed.”

On the opposite street corner, you've got a significantly larger amount of people holding signs with phrases like “God hates signs” and “I bet hell is fabulous.”

However, the same law that protects an individual's right to counter-protest the WBC also protects the church's right to spread its message—regardless of how vile, disgusting or distasteful that message happens to be.

Although WBC protests are perhaps some of the most well-known demonstrations, they are not the most common. Americans frequently protest government policy, injustices in the workplace and civil rights.

If the Supreme Court ruled WBC members didn't have the right to exercise their beliefs, it would have been the court's first step down a treacherous path. It would have set a legal precedent that said it's OK to censor speech with which the majority doesn't agree.

Citizens need not endorse a viewpoint that is different than theirs. If they do not agree with something that is presented before them, Americans may voice their dissatisfactions in the form of a legal protest.

Although the WBC likely won't win any popularity contests anytime soon, its voice is necessary. If the Supreme Court hit the mute button on these protesters, what would prevent the justices from censoring the First Amendment rights of others?

There are American citizens who exercise their First Amendment rights to do good. Unfortunately, there are also American citizens who use those same rights for, well, what the WBC does.

But it is in America's best interest to keep both voices alive.

And consistent with the Founding Fathers' belief in the marketplace of ideas, the good speech will triumph over the bad.

### BEACON POLL

*The Beacon* poll is unscientific and does not claim to reflect the overall attitudes of students on the Wilkes campus. This poll is based on 11 responses.

#### Last week's question:

Do you depend on Pell Grants for your college tuition?

- Yes 36%
- No 64%

#### This week's question:

If Westboro Baptist Church parishioners held a protest in Wilkes-Barre, would you protest their appearance?

- Yes
- No

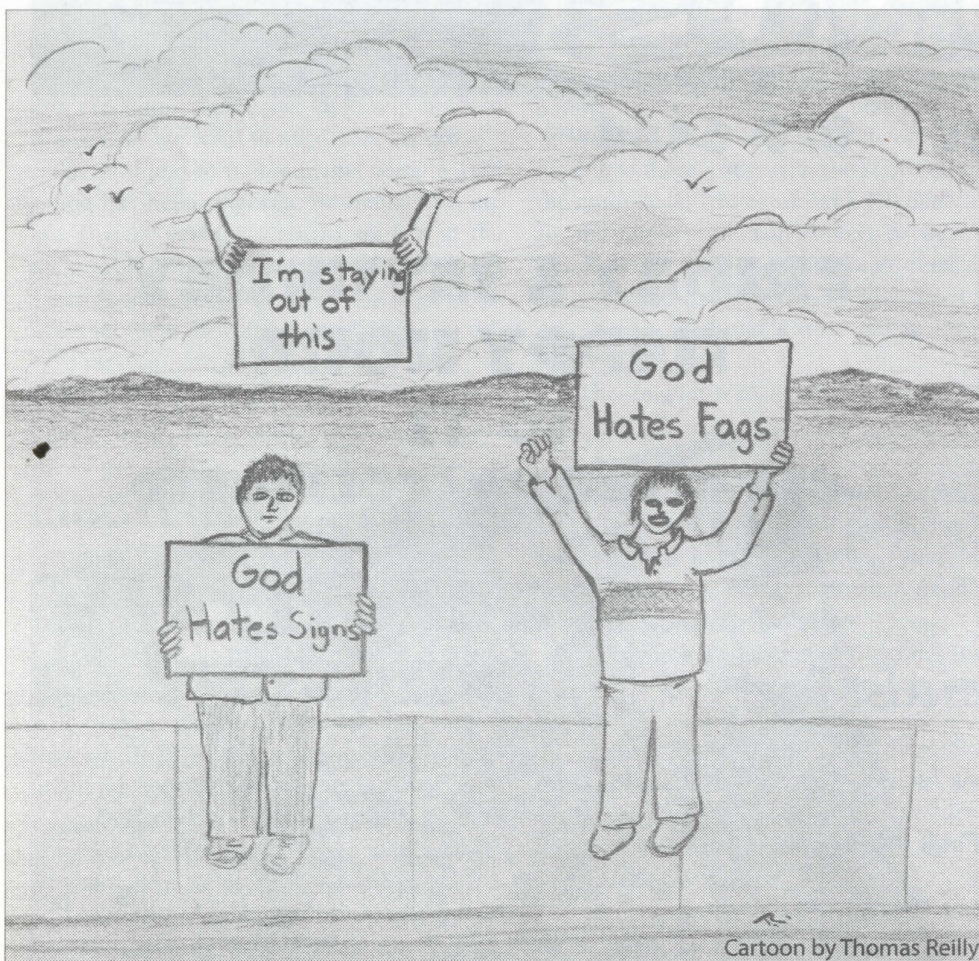
Cast your vote online at:  
[www.wilkesbeacon.com](http://www.wilkesbeacon.com)

### SPEAK UP!

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Cartoon by Thomas Reilly



## Adolescents should never disregard their rights for free speech in school

BY STEPHANIE WILKIE  
Staff Writer

In continuation of my last article addressing the Keystone Exams, I would like to share my "almost arrested" story. Furthermore, I'd like to add my thoughts on adolescents speaking freely.

My junior class in high school just finished the PSSAs and I was not happy. Even the principal of our school personally addressed our classes expressing his frustration toward a test only the government cares about. As a staff writer of my high school's journal, I saw the perfect opportunity to publicize my frustration towards the PSSAs.

As it turns out, some people are not too happy with people expressing their frustrations. In my article, I bashed politicians for creating the test. I bashed the government who ultimately prevented my entire junior class from seeing President Barack Obama speak at a local university (before he was elected as president, which means my entire class could have been voting for him).

I bashed teachers who would not let me read a teenage romance novel when I finished the math test because the surface area of a cylinder may have been handwritten within its contents.

However, I also bashed other students who I knew were cheating on the test. Most students had high expectations for their grade (or maybe their parents did) while some could care less and circled "ABCD" the whole way. At any rate, because I pointed out in print that students were not playing fair, I was subjected to a meeting with the assistant principal, my journal adviser and the dean of students. All three supported my effort to call to attention that the PSSAs were a load of feces. However, they were not pleased with the fact that if I did publish the article, the cops would have to "bring me in for the night, seize the cell phones of my entire junior class, search their phone records and cancel all of their scores."

Part of me was screaming, "Just do it. This is your chance to stomp the feet of government officials." But this might have ruined my chance of becoming an editor the following year and gotten my entire class to despise me, so I thought it better to avoid this situation.

My adviser told me teachers need some-

one like me on their side to support the hatred of standardized testing, but at 17 years old I should not be in jail.

This incident calls to attention that adolescents are often afraid to speak their minds. School officials take it into their hands to stop any means of violence or offensive speech that may lead to danger. In my case, it was clear I had the choice to print the "jail-bait" language, but if I had it would have put me in prison. Most students do not realize they have the right to express themselves regardless of who says no.

Newspapers are often open to accepting any letters to the editor. Although editors do have the right to edit or refuse to print these letters, these letters are often printed regardless of their contents. However, in high school, the case alters.

What the letter is regarding and how offensive it is are both factors high school officials must take into consideration before printing anything. These precautions are necessary if the student might be put into jail, but limiting a person's freedom of speech challenges the First Amendment.

Oppressing adolescents' freedom of speech can lead to danger outside of printed opinions. Students can become afraid to stand up for themselves. The effects of bullying in high school are not news to anyone. By telling students that speaking up can lead to danger, students may think speaking up in an already-dangerous situation could lead to more trouble.

The right to express one's self begins at youth and flourishes as students develop their creativity into successful venues. But high school is beginning to tell students that saying what you want and living as you please is by no means acceptable in this society.

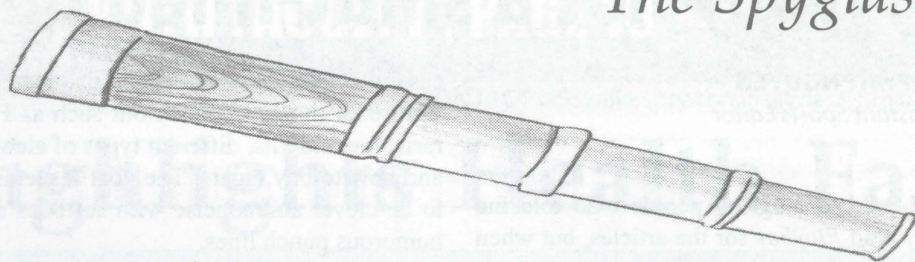
I remember my first week of classes at Wilkes. Professors were cursing left and right, and making sexual innuendos in PowerPoint presentations. Students wore dresses provocatively in September. Students were discussing sex, drugs and alcohol in class discussions. Propaganda was everywhere.

Adolescents should be exposed to this nature of being. The government and high school administration should ease back on their uptight "ban individuality" campaign and let the future reigning generation live by the words of Neil Young.

"Keep on rockin' in the free world."

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## The Spyglass



## The most dangerous legal thing one is permitted to do

BY ANTHONY TRUPPO  
Opinion Editor

When I was a child, my doctor taught me the three fundamental rules of driving: deer have a death wish, everyone out there wants to kill you and most importantly, driving is the most dangerous legal thing one can do.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 33,808 fatal motor vehicle accidents occurred in 2009.

Although this is the lowest number on record, there are still 11 people being killed in motor vehicle accidents for every 100,000 people in the United States. I feel that drivers need to take action to make this number even lower.

I believe the main problem is many drivers of all ages are either unaware of the fundamental rules of driving or choose to ignore these rules outright.

These are rules even children are aware of, such as driving the speed limit, refraining from tailgating and slowing down in nasty weather.

Perhaps the simplest rule of driving involves paying attention to traffic lights. My three-year-old cousin can tell you a green light means "go" and a red light means "stop." Oddly, grown men and women do not seem to understand this concept.

I cannot tell you how many times I have seen people turn on red lights in Wilkes-Barre without even slowing down to check for traffic.

Even though Pennsylvania allows right and left turns on red in certain cases, people need to consider the undeniable truth that they are often not the only drivers on the road.

Driving can be compared to running through a battlefield into enemy territory, gun in hand. A vehicle is a weapon and drivers not only need to watch what they are doing, but what everyone else is doing

as well, hence the second fundamental rule of driving. You may know the entire manual by heart, yet being the most careful driver on the planet will not always protect you from other drivers.

The thing that angers me most about dangerous drivers is tailgating, which according to the Highways Agency, the organization responsible for maintaining the road network in England, factors into more than one-third of all driving accidents in England. Since tailgating occurs everywhere, this statistic is likely the same in the U.S.

Driving 62 miles per hour rather than 60 will not make a significant difference in getting you home in time to catch "Dancing With the Stars."

Also, do not forget deer have a death wish and if one was to dash in front of your vehicle and you were to hit the brakes, the tailgater would have no choice but to create a deer-car-car sandwich.

Returning to the concept of a vehicle as a weapon, some drivers use their vehicles as instruments of intimidation, engaging in what is widely known as road rage. AAA conducted a survey on 526 drivers and discovered over 90 percent of those surveyed had experienced road rage incidents within the past year.

Whereas some acts of road rage are rather harmless, such as uttering expletives under one's breath, aggressive acts can lead to accidents. The survey revealed 62 percent of drivers were victims of tailgaters and 1 percent claim to have been physically assaulted by human hands.

Although road rage is often inevitable, drivers should try to release their frustrations in ways that will not harm others or themselves.

Remember, driving is a not a right, but a privilege that should not be abused.

Using common sense while driving can not only save your life, but lives of others as well.

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# Playboy not a smut-filled publication, provides a good read

BY PHAT NGUYEN  
Assistant Sports Editor

I used to laugh at people who told me they read *Playboy* for the articles, but when I heard a fellow mass media connoisseur's opinion on the matter, I was surprised and quickly found myself in search of the notorious publication. I could care less for the nude photos honestly; I was really much more impressed with the level of entertainment.

Coming from a pretty conservative family, I would probably never be able to subscribe to something like *Playboy's* genre even if I really did just care for a good read.

From the *Playboy* issues I have read, I have quickly found that the magazine targets a younger demographic. *Playboy* offers a full course load of entertainment: sports, music, movies, popular culture, politics, economics, electronics and even beautiful women with minimal clothing. I was most surprised with the magazine's quality of writers. In fact, *Playboy* has a long history of publishing short stories by notable authors such as Margaret Atwood, Arthur C. Clarke, Ian Fleming, Vladimir Nabokov, P. G. Wodehouse and Kurt Vonnegut.

I really like the movie section. What I really enjoyed was how the advertising played into the actual articles. Many of the ads did run and played into the stories quite suc-

cessfully. Quite a bit of the ads also featured were cool things to check out such as Ferraris, first aid kits, different types of alcohol and how to buy cigars. The goal it seems is to be clever and concise with cartoons and humorous punch lines.

As an avid reader of *Maxim*, I can tell you *Playboy* is hands down the better option. I like *Playboy's* "20 Questions" feature, which I feel is much more hip and informative. These are not the short interviews that lack depth, but more of writers asking questions that people who don't write would be asking, basically the real deal.

There never seems to be a cutoff for spacing. They have more info boxes with some really great statistics, and the articles are rather meaty and full of life. *Playboy* also offers something a little different from other similar magazines, targeting people of my demographic with articles such as the social agenda of the 112th Congress followed by Playmate news.

*Playboy's* March 2011 issue offered 20 different ads and 30 different articles. The ad pages were about 42 to the 84 actual pages for articles and photos. Based on those numbers, *Playboy* doesn't seem to be run solely on ads and sponsorship, but perhaps the sale of its own photography and image. In fact, the *Playboy* bunny is probably one of the most popular trademarked icons in the world.

The pictures are what sell the magazine.

They find attractive female celebrities and take tasteful pictures of them. Yes, there is a fair share of naked women in this magazine, but I feel the pictures for the most part are tasteful and classy.

The overall feel is artistic rather than overbearing. I would probably say that has a lot more to do with the photographers than the girls. I like that they are virtually all in classic pin-up format. Similar publications like *Hustler* and *Penthouse* try to push the envelope and show really graphic scenes.

*Playboy*, at the very worst, is mildly soft-core pornography. I would argue that *Maxim*, *FHM* and *Cosmopolitan* clearly depict more porn content when compared to *Playboy*, because their pictures are very suggestive, showing women lusting for sex and lying around in beds. In *Playboy*, however, they are just women modeling nude, something which I consider artistic.

If you enjoy really solid articles about all kinds of topics relating to our society, I can't think of a better magazine than *Playboy* for a general overview targeting males ages 18-35. Perhaps *GQ* does, but *Playboy* is deserving of much more than it's given in terms of writing and actual entertainment/news. *Playboy* is a much better magazine than it is given credit for, and I give it a stamp of approval.

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The Beacon/Thomas Reilly

Even though consumers often purchase *Playboy* magazine for the pictures, the articles should not be ignored. The articles are well-written, interesting and informative.

## United States involvement in world conflict frivolous

BY THE BEACON  
Editorial Board

Look before you leap is an old saying, but it is applicable to nearly every situation in life. It is used in a figurative manner to say people should think before they do something. Examples range from picking out fruit at the supermarket to selecting a college to literally looking before you leap.

Another pertinent situation is the United States' involvement in world conflicts. The ones in which we aren't directly, inherently involved. An example of this would be the conflict in Libya.

For example, America went to war with Iraq when, unbeknownst at the time, its most important reason, weapons of mass destruction, was a sham.

The lies President George W. Bush spouted out have since created a huge coffee stain on the pants of time. After spending billions of dollars destroying and rebuilding a country divided by citizens who want

us there and citizens who never have, it is important to continue asking this question: What was it all for?

The usual answer in this situation is the Iraqi people are free, thanks to U.S. involvement. Also, there are tons of countries not practicing democracy. England still has a monarchy, but we let this go because they also have a parliament and we think the monarchy is just a group of figureheads. This isn't actually true.

They are leaders in the military and government alike. Millions of British citizens' dollars are given to the monarchy every year as "allowance."

Assuming the U.S. government is fully aware of how the royal family has exploited what they only are allowed because they consider it their "birthright," why haven't we gone to war with England? Because giving the gift of democracy is frankly not a good enough reason. This didn't work when we did it in Vietnam, so to do it now is to not learn from history.

The other major reason the U.S. got involved with Iraq is Iraq was having conflicts within their own borders. So we prevented one war with a bigger war.

Albert Einstein once said, "You cannot simultaneously prevent and prepare for war," meaning you actually can't prevent war with war. War for peace is moot, because it is an oxymoron.

It is important to note the U.S. has not officially declared war since World War II. Korea, Vietnam and Iraq are all considered military conflicts, not wars.

Thus, the recent mounting conflict in Libya could quite easily be our next Iraq. One big difference in this situation is there was United Nations approval in Libya; however, Iraq was believed at the time to directly affect the U.S.

Sure, in certain situations it seems like being stuck between a rock and a hard place when deciding whether to involve ourselves or not, but this does not mean the answer is to throw caution to the wind

and start playing a game of dodgeball with enormous bombs.

Basically, *The Beacon* believes America needs to stop policing the world.

We should be more concerned with our own people.

What if we had not gone to Iraq and used this money to help rebuild after Hurricane Katrina?

This kind of dough could have rebuilt New Orleans a few times over.

If we're going to jump into conflict, why don't we jump into fighting for other things instead? Like curing the No. 1 killer worldwide. No, not the U.S. military, folks: AIDS.

In fact, this would not only show we care about our own people's well-being, but would also tie up allies around the world in a much more positive and universal way than war.

Two birds, one stone. Except the birds get to live because we found a cure and stopped throwing stones at them.



# Salvia presentation highlights Health Fair

*Health screenings, massages and stress management seminars featured*

BY CHRISTINE LEE  
Life Editor

Lindsay Smith was tired of reading misinformation about salvia on the Internet, so she decided to do something about it.

The P6 pharmacy major gave a presentation on the hallucinogenic drug, which is derived from a plant, at Wilkes University's annual Health and Wellness Fair. Last Thursday's fair filled the Student Center ballroom with the sights and sounds of all things health.

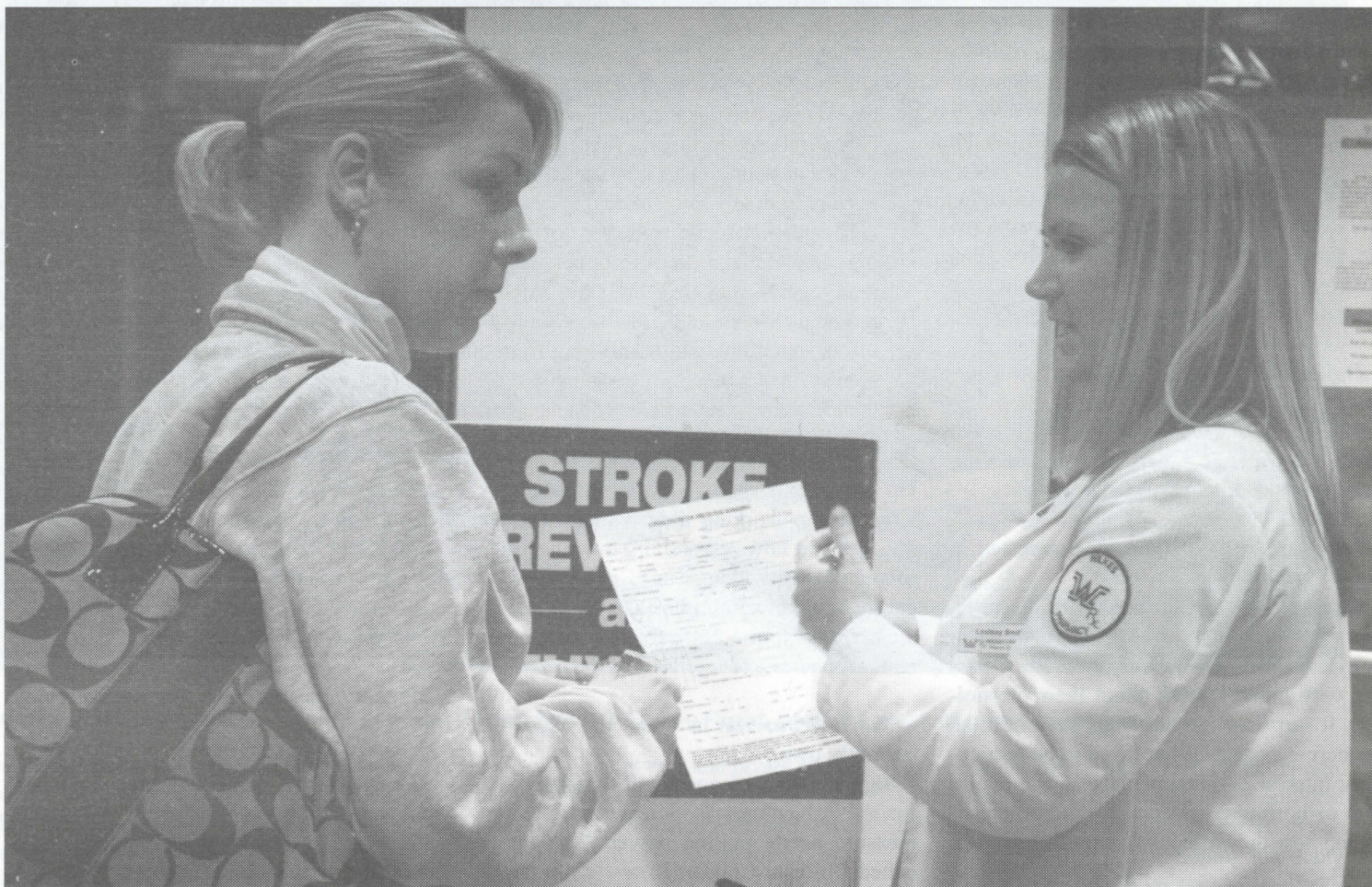
From heart rate counters to HIV testing, attendees were offered a full range of health needs. The event, which is sponsored annually by Health and Wellness Services and Human Resources, is for designed for students, faculty, and staff to get a good education and tips for better health and well-being.

Smith's goal in presenting was for students to learn something about the drug, which has become popular due to sites like YouTube.

"I hope that people would learn something, anything, if they take one little thing away from this presentation, I think it would be helpful," Smith said. "I'm not really hoping to give anybody opinions; I want them to form their own opinions after I've presented all the facts."

In Smith's words, the reason she wanted to present on salvia was to relate more to college students, of which this kind of potentially dangerous drug could be considered amusing. Smith says she found out about salvia through a toxicology rotation on drugs of abuse.

"It interested me because I was on a toxicology rotation (for pharmacy) and we talked a little bit about drugs of abuse and salvia was mentioned but was not really in-depth studied, so I actually wanted to learn about it myself," Smith said.



The Beacon/Allison Roth  
**P6 pharmacy major Lindsay Smith, right, discusses stroke screenings results with a local resident. A stroke prevention screening was one of the many screenings offered this year at the annual Health and Wellness Fair in the SUB Ballroom.**

Smith also said that salvia's increasing prevalence, particularly among males, in the U.S. and ease of availability is one of the reasons why salvia would be a relevant topic for students.

"I guess that's why I chose to do salvia (as a topic) because of its ease of availability to get and its increasing prevalence," Smith said. "I also don't think that all the facts are presented accurately all the time on the Internet."

Part of Smith's presentation was to allow the audience to form their own conclusions about the legalities of salvia. She noted there has been research done with the drug for uses in schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease, but she wanted people to get the facts about the drug.

"I don't want to make (the audiences') opinion for them; I'd like them to form their own opinion about whether or not it should be legal and whether or not they should try

it," Smith said. "I'd like them to realize that there are risks and consequences involved and also what effects it can cause."

Some of the other featured exhibits at this year's Health and Wellness fair included screenings for cholesterol, glucose, carotid, thyroid and bone density screenings. According to Health and Wellness coordinator and fair organizer Gail Holby, there were other useful features this year.

"This year we had stress management, a dietitian, bone density screenings and free massages," Holby said.

Featured educational topics ranged in variety this year from diabetes, sex education and contraceptives, to cancer fitness, alcohol and stress management. This year, students majoring in the pharmacy program were able to help out by giving mini-presentations on such topics as asthma, complete with inhalers, how to quit smoking, and heartburn.

"I was very happy that the pharmacy students were able to give a good participation this year, as well as the Bacchus Club," Holby said.

As far as feedback goes for next year's fair, Holby says that she gets plenty of it, plus a little bit more.

"People do go for the screenings (presented), although sometimes they come out with negative results, it's still good that they went," Holby said.

Holby also adds that each year she tries to add something new and especially enjoys student participation in the fair.

"I like student participation. We just try to bring in what is most beneficial to students, staff and faculty, and we welcome suggestions," Holby said.

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# Chatting with Faculty: Dr. William Biggers

BY CHRISTINE LEE

Life Editor

When students taking human anatomy and physiology walk into class, some are shocked to discover the tarantula that greets them. The tarantula, affectionately called Chico, is one of several unique creatures that inhabit the office of associate professor of biology Dr. William Biggers, who is in his eighth year of teaching at Wilkes. A native of Raleigh, N.C., the graduate of North Carolina State University also teaches invertebrate biology and comparative physiology. He currently resides in Mountain Top, Pa., with his wife and has a 25-year-old daughter who works in Panama.

**The Beacon:** Tell us a little bit about yourself.

**Biggers:** I am a biochemist with a research focus in biochemical regulation of reproduction and development of invertebrates.

**The Beacon:** What got you interested in bugs?

**Biggers:** Before I got interested in invertebrates, I was interested in bugs while in graduate school. It's mostly because there's not very much known about their physiology. It surprised me that bugs even have an endocrine system. What I find to be particularly interesting is their place in the evolution of hormone systems, so I like investigating how they affect other species groups.

**The Beacon:** What makes bugs, especially tarantulas and scorpions, fascinating to you?

**Biggers:** I've always been interested in venomous animals, more for curiosity. But



The Beacon/Christine Lee

**Dr. William Biggers is fascinated by venomous animals, such as his tarantula, Chico.**

I'm more interested in aquaculture invertebrates. I'm working now with freshwater muscles and how researching how the environment affects them. I also enjoy investigating larval metamorphosis, such as that of a caterpillar into a butterfly, and how other animal species undergo it.

**The Beacon:** Tell us about the bugs you currently own.

**Biggers:** I have wood beetles that are used for the Adventures in Science program to measure beetle pulling power. A tarantula called Chico, a Chilean Rose-Haired tarantula. I've had the scorpion for two years and it is an Emperor Scorpion from Florida. I mostly handle and let students handle the tarantula.

**The Beacon:** What kinds of things do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

**Biggers:** I like watching movies, working out a little, reading novels and swimming.

**The Beacon:** Describe yourself in three words.

**Biggers:** Easy-going, caring and enjoy life.

**The Beacon:** If you could have one wish, what would it be and why?

**Biggers:** If I had one wish I wish I would say to find a cure for all cancers. Partly because my mom died of cancer at a young age and seeing her go through the treatments was tough. Also, my daughter had Hodgkin's Lymphoma at age nine.

**The Beacon:** What's one random fact about yourself that you would be willing to tell?

**Biggers:** I don't like cold weather and snow that much.

**The Beacon:** What were you like in college?

**Biggers:** I was a fairly serious student but at the same time I liked to have some fun. I would say I was a mixture of serious and fun, but not real serious. My motto is get the most out of what life has to offer and I have always to live up to that.

**The Beacon:** If you were stranded on a deserted island and could only bring three things, what would they be?

**Biggers:** A bathing suit, fishing rod and suntan lotion.

**The Beacon:** In your opinion, what defines a biologist?

**Biggers:** Somebody that's very curious about life processes.

**The Beacon:** What do your students think of you?

**Biggers:** They probably think I'm a little bit crazy and eccentric. That I'm nice but a little bit eccentric and crazy.

**The Beacon:** What advice do you have for your students?

**Biggers:** Try as hard as you can and I think you should think of these courses as not to memorize facts as to see the significance in what you are learning about.

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## Teaching Polish heritage through embroidery workshop

BY HOLLY BOYER

Staff Writer

The Wilkes University Polish Room held an embroidery workshop for members of the community to learn about Polish heritage and bring home their own traditional Polish craft.

This year the Polish Room's workshop was about making an Easter towel with the wording "Wesołego Alleluja," which is the equivalent of a Polish Easter greeting, by using the counted cross-stitch technique. On either side of the script are two pisanis, which are tradition decorative Easter eggs.

The event, held in the Savitz Multicul-

tural Lounge, took place from 9 a.m. to noon for members and non members of the Polish Room.

After the first session of the workshop was completed last Saturday, the participants will return next week for the second three-hour instruction session. During the second session participants are going to work on the pisanis part of the towel, so that it can be finished in time for Easter.

This year, the workshop was limited to only 15 participants with two instructors so that the participants were able to get some one-on-one attention, if needed. The cost of the workshop, which supplied a kit including all required project materials, was \$5 for members of the Polish

Room and \$10 for non members. By attending the workshop, participants got the opportunity to learn about Polish heritage as well as the not-too-difficult technique required in creating some unique Polish traditions.

"My favorite part was to actually see something develop that you made with your own hands, it was unbelievable. Just to see what it was supposed to look like to it actually happening, that you did it, it was amazing," said Joyce Latoski, a member of the Polish Room who participated in the workshop.

This is the second annual workshop hosted by the Polish Room that has been held at Wilkes. Last year, participants learned

about the Swieconka Easter baskets and about tradition of how the Saturday before Easter, women gather to assemble a basket of food to be eaten on Sunday morning. This basket is filled with certain foods that had specific meanings. When the women gather together, the priest comes and blesses the basket to be able to be eaten on Easter morning.

The embroidered towel can be used for several things. Some participants have decided to use it in their houses as home décor, and some use it as a covering cloth for the Swieconka baskets during Easter.

SEE POLISH, Page 11



# 'Casino Week' offers plenty of fun, cool prizes for students

## Week of game nights features Texas Hold 'Em, Bingo and a night at the races

BY DEVONI NOVAK

Staff Writer

Student Government's week of games brought Wilkes students together in a fun, competitive environment. A variety of prizes displayed in the SG office window no doubt encouraged the crowds of students that attended.

Prizes included: Wal-Mart gift cards, handbags, a Mac Book Pro, a \$1,000 King of Prussia mall card and many more. Students who came out tried their luck on three nights of games. Although some left the nights in frustration, others hit the jackpot.

The games began this week with a night of Texas Hold 'Em. Students meandered into the ballroom on the second floor of the SUB to play tournament style, in hopes of winning a Wal-Mart gift card. Seven top finishers of Texas Hold 'Em played again during casino night to determine the final winner.

Thursday was a night at the races. Every round a student could bet on no more than two different horses, but in any amount they wished. A pair of dice was rolled, one die represented the horse that could leave the gate and the other determined how many spaces it could progress.

Round winners were those who bet on the first and second horses to reach the finish. Those who bet on the winning horse won double what they wagered, while the second place horse won its supporters their bets back.

Senior communications major Amanda Gunther was the lucky player with the most chips, 370, at the end of the night, winning her the Mac Book Pro. Gunther said this was the first game night she ever attended in her years at Wilkes. Deciding to go to the horse races paid off.

"It was definitely fun," Gunther said.



The Beacon/Allison Roth

Students place their bets in a round of poker during Friday's Casino Night, part of a week of game-night festivities.

"I had never gone to Casino Night before so I don't have anything to compare it to, but I think it brought out a lot of people and it has a chance to be successful again in the future."

Friday, Casino Night was a huge success, according to Willie Eggleston, student government treasurer and junior pharmacy major.

By hosting a week of game nights, Eggleston says the record for attendance this year was broken.

"We broke the record this year so that was good," Eggleston said. "I was busy all night, which means it was a good turnout. People

seemed really happy with the prizes and really happy with the event overall."

At Casino Night, students were each given a cup containing an allotted amount of chips, two tickets that could be traded in for more chips or prize tickets, and a door prize ticket.

A variety of games were offered in both the ballroom and lounge of the SUB where students gambled their chips. At the end of the night participants made their way to the lounge where they distributed their tickets among the different prize raffles.

Freshman nursing major Kayla Ellmann

was the winner of the flat-screen TV door prize. In the other raffles, Ellmann said she only had five tickets to work with. She attempted to win some of the smaller prizes, hoping not many others put tickets into those raffles. Her strategy didn't pay off, although by the end of the night she was the new owner of the TV.

"When they were calling out the number I was like oh (expletive) and my friend screamed," Ellmann said.

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The Beacon/Allison Roth

Members of the Polish Room sew Easter towels during the embroidery workshop on Saturday.

## POLISH

Continued from Page 10

"Even though I am Polish, I never realized there were certain colors and patterns for traditional pisankis. We learned some of the Polish language and different words," Latoski said.

The attendees learned about how in the Polish heritage, women use these towel cloths as a gift to give to someone who is special in their lives. They also were informed about the meanings behind the greeting and the eggs.

"I think (the workshop) went very well. The people were enjoying them-

selves, and the fact that we had a waiting list meant people were interested in learning about their heritage," said coordinator Helen Grebski.

The Polish Room has partaken in many other events including speaking at schools, hosting Christmas dinners, and doing field trips.

They also provide two scholarships to students with a Polish background. Members are even thinking about planning a third annual workshop for next year.

"Established in 1950, (the) Wilkes University Polish Room fosters an appreciation of Polish heritage by providing an enriching environment filled

with cultural books, artifacts and programs," Grebski said.

"We are looking forward in the future to have Wilkes students participate, and they don't have to have Polish background. We are also looking to start a student chapter connected to the Polish Room for anyone that is interested in learning about the heritage," said Grebski.

The Polish Room can be found on the second floor of the Farley Library for anyone interested.

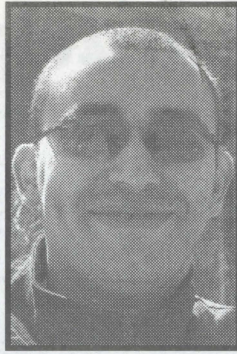
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## STREET BEAT

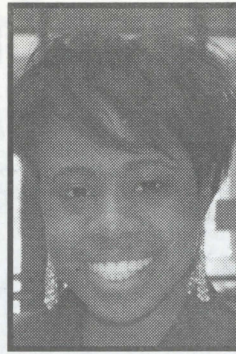
### What are you looking forward to about spring?

Photos: The Beacon/Allison Roth



**Jesse Hassan**  
Senior Earth and environmental science major

"Going overseas to Egypt."



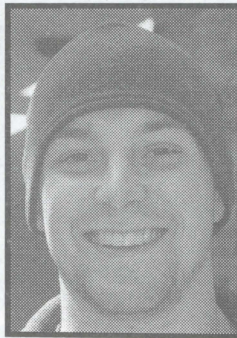
**Adrienne Dorcent**  
Junior nursing major

"Last day of finals and the study break party."



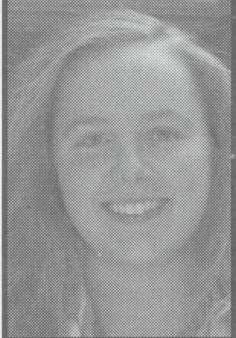
**Amanda Bast**  
Freshman elementary education major

"The warm weather."



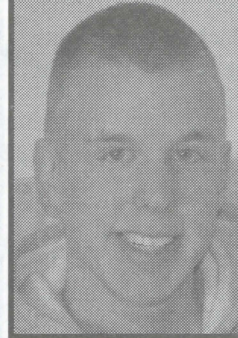
**Cory Cesare**  
Freshman undeclared

"Playing sports on the greenway."



**Amanda Coombs**  
Sophomore elementary education major

"A break from studying."



**Steven Englesbe**  
Senior business major

"Being able to go for a run along the river."

## Wilkes University's Health & Wellness Corner

*Wilkes University's Health & Wellness Corner is a weekly feature in The Beacon. Students who ask questions will remain anonymous. All questions will be answered by Health Services staff.*

**Q: I am considering engaging in a "friends with benefits" relationship. What do you think of this idea?**

**A:** "Friends with benefits" is a popular concept on college campuses today. Although it may seem like a good idea to have sex with a friend, it is emotionally challenging and often complicates an otherwise healthy relationship.

It is attractive to some because there is no commitment and it is based in friendship. However, friendship is rooted in trust, intimacy, sharing, support, and a commitment to the relationship.

Research shows that males can more easily separate the physical aspect from the psychological impact. Often, they are looking for the benefits part whereas women tend to really value the friendship.

Additionally, these physical friendships often eliminate the openness of an authen-

tic friendship. Friends who could previously talk about anything often avoid talking about the relationship itself.

There is also the fear that if romantic feelings develop, they will not be reciprocated. Students who engage in FWB learn that relationships are complex.

Real intimacy — whether it is physical, emotional, intellectual, social or spiritual — is based on commitment through time and openness with one another.

The instant gratification of FWB overlooks these necessary aspects of a relationship. Adding sex to friendship without commitment is a quick fix for a deeper unmet need for real intimacy leaving many feeling unloved.

*Do you have a question for the Health & Wellness Corner? E-mail your questions to [wellness.services@wilkes.edu](mailto:wellness.services@wilkes.edu), and you may see your question in next week's Wellness Corner. Your privacy will be protected. You can reach those working at Health Services at 570-408-4730 or by visiting their office on the first floor of Passan Hall.*

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MARCH 29, 2011

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## Farley Library boasts impressive movie collection

BY ANTHONY DORUNDA  
Special Projects Editor

Call it a hunch.

That's what Heidi Jarecki had in 2006 when she and Brian Sacolic, the head of library public services, decided to expand the Farley Library's collection of motion pictures.

Jarecki, who serves as Farley Library's head of technical services, recognized a need for more educational and enjoyable options at Wilkes.

Enter the idea for a larger collection of cinema masterpieces.

"We had been given a rather large collection of VHS tapes, but at that time VHS was clearly on its way out," said Jarecki. "We wanted both students and faculty to be able to understand and enjoy the history of film. We thought that was one thing that we were lacking. So we decided to try a small collection of DVDs."

Small in the beginning, sure, but now anything less than plentiful is an understatement.

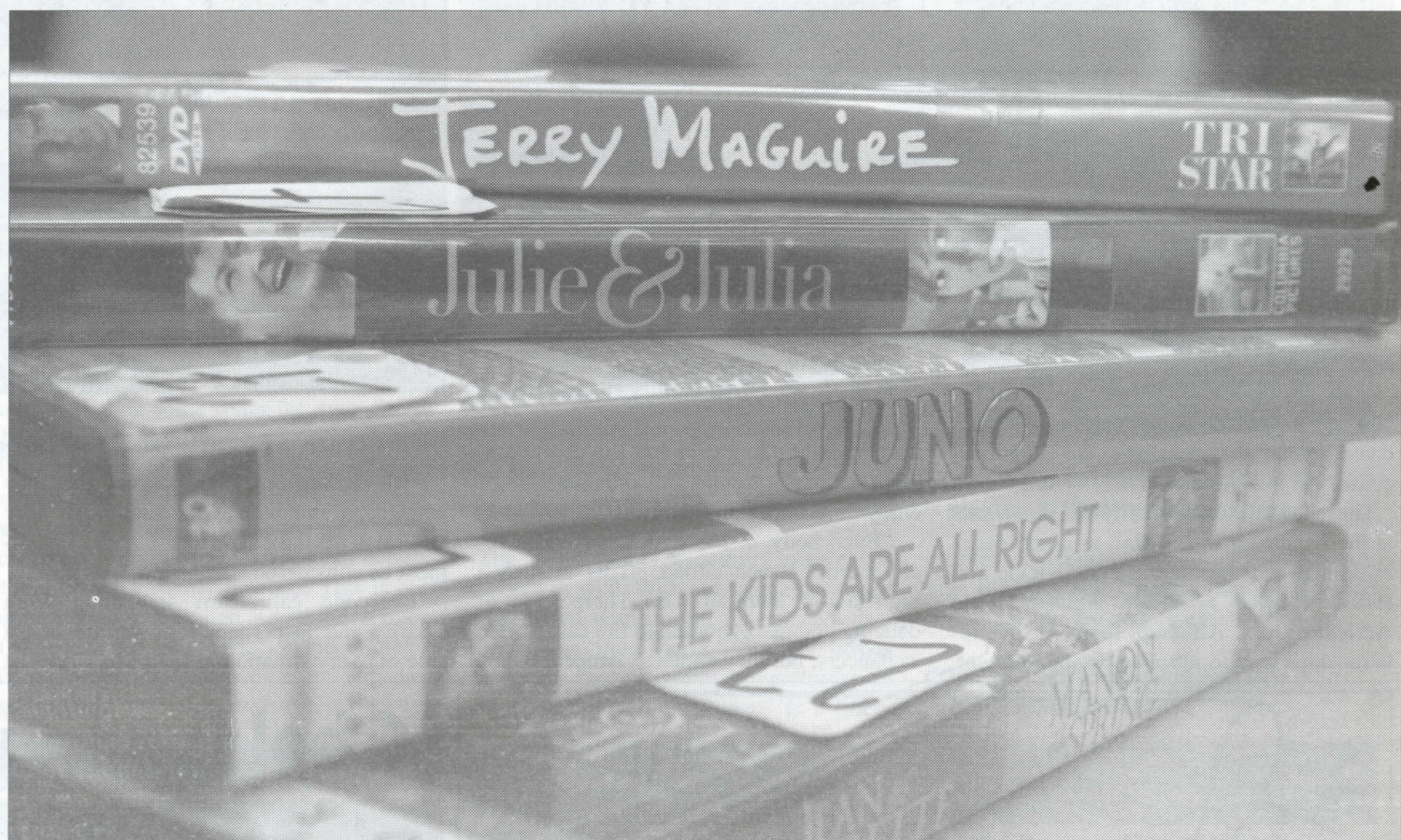
At first glance, the collection of DVDs on the first floor of the Farley Library, although sizable, may not look like anything special. But given a closer look, it likens to a walk through the Library of Congress's National Film Registry.

And that's because, well, it sort of is. Littered with the classics — such as "Citizen Kane," "On the Waterfront," and "Casablanca," — and more heralded recent works like "Unforgiven" and "Saving Private Ryan," the collection housed in Farley could be easily mistaken for a historical movie database.

"(The library's collection is) real impressive," said Alex Caicedo, a senior mechanical engineering major. "My only wish is that I had more time and I could take out more movies so I could see them all. It has all those old movies that everyone is like 'oh I really want to see that movie,' but they never can because it's never available to them. But the library has that collection."

The dynamic assortment, is a mirror image of the American Film Institutes "100, Years, 100 Movies" list. The list, which honors the 100 greatest American movies of all time, is the crème de le crème of film in America. Jarecki ensures the Wilkes compilation keeps up to date with the AFI as well as student and faculty requests.

"Everything was selected for a reason. Every movie has a purpose, whether it is repre-



The Beacon/Allison Roth

**The Farley Library has hundreds of movies available for students to rent for free.**

sentational of its time, its genre or the real-world implications," Jarecki said.

Case in point: the classic Shirley Temple film, "Bright Eyes." Instead of splurging on an entire set of America's little darling's movies, she selected one that would signify the entire lot.

"Shirley Temple may not be popular now, but during her time, the Great Depression, she was a huge box office draw," Jarecki said. "Many of her films she played a character that was orphaned, or down on her luck, and she always triumphed. This is what the public was looking for, especially during that time."

The collection has caught the attention of many students, especially Caicedo.

Caicedo, who considers himself a movie aficionado, is impressed each time he analyzes the racks of movies. An avid collector and observer of film, he is in awe of both the quantity and quality of movies the library possesses.

"It's the reason I didn't get cable," Caicedo said. "We (my roommates) were debating it, but once I found out about the collection,

there was really no need for it. At the library, you're getting to see movies that you've always wanted to see, but never getting the opportunity too; and for free. That's unbeatable."

Jarecki's is determined to continue improving the collection, albeit on a tight budget.

Given an annual fund amount of anywhere between \$200 and \$300 to work with, Jarecki and her staff of three ensure they can provide the best that American cinema has to offer. According to Jarecki, an average of 600 to 700 movies are rented out each month. However, recently, she said they have noticed their circulation decrease, which is a statistic she said can be attributed to options like Netflix and Redbox.

To combat the slightly downward trend, and the tight budget, they have resorted to purchasing just the films nominated for best picture in the recent years, this year included. As of now, they have purchased each 2011 best picture nominee that has been released on DVD. That includes "The Social Network," "The Fighter," "The Kids are Al-

right," "Winter's Bone," "Toy Story 3," "Inception," and "127 Hours."

It's the slew of recent award nominees that impresses Caicedo even more.

"I walked in the other day and saw "127 Hours," Caicedo said. "You go and see all these old movies, so you don't think they're getting any new movies, but seeing that movie shows that they are still keeping up with the good movies of this time."

New movie, old movie, or classic movie — it makes no difference. Each one found in the dazzling collection elicits the same response.

"Every movie I've gotten so far is an 'Oh my God movie,'" Caicedo said. "I probably wouldn't have bothered to see them or find them, but they were available, so I had to keep getting them. I always go with two movies in mind, but each time I leave with two different ones that I see while I was there."

"It's awesome."

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# 'Sweet Charity' brings rhythm of life to Wilkes-Barre

BY MOLLY KURLANDSKI  
A&E Editor

Home to over a dozen performances each year, The Little Theater of Wilkes-Barre presented its mid-season show, "Sweet Charity" this past weekend with a Wilkes alumna in the title role.

Starring Deidre Lynch as Charity, the once-popular Broadway sensation featured familiar song hits including, "Big Spender," "Rhythm of Life" and "If My Friends Could See Me Now."

The show was set in the late 1960s in New York City and centers on Charity and her journey through her attempts to find love and to find her own purpose.

"It's a two-hour adventure about Charity," said Kevin Holbert, the director of the play. "What I like most about this play is that the comedy is timeless. Some of the jokes are dated but for the most part, the situational comedy is just hysterical."

The show follows Charity as she works at the Fandango Dance Hall as a taxi dancer with two of her best friends Nickie and Helene (played by Shana Weinstock and Adrienne Box). Although many of her relationships lead to ultimate disappointment,

her optimism helps her remain hopeful that things will always turn out right.

As its Lynch's fifth show with the Little Theater, this was be the second time she played the role of Charity. Her first time was at Wilkes during her senior year.

"I saw the movie when I was 10 and I liked all the music and the dancing," Lynch said. "It's a lot to take in but I looked at it and I knew I wanted to do that someday. (Charity) wasn't a normal character to play. She's kind of damaged but she still keeps this optimism."

Hollie Major, another Wilkes graduate, served as musical director to "Sweet Charity." She said there was initial talk of doing "Chicago," but since there was a traveling tour doing the same thing, the board of directors discussed doing 'Charity.'

"('Charity') was so similar in time frame and type of music (to 'Chicago')," Major said. "Seeing the music and the choreography together is fascinating and something I enjoy most about this show."

"Everybody in the cast has worked really hard," Lynch added. "This is such a big show for them all to do. There's a lot of dancing and not everyone in the cast started as dancers, but they ended as dancers."



Courtesy of the Little Theater/Hollie Major

**Deidre Lynch, a recent Wilkes graduate, played the title role in "Sweet Charity."**

Both Holbert and Major agreed that they wanted the audience to understand the story and relate to the characters. Charity can almost be considered a heroine to everyone.

"Everyone can learn something from Charity and to perhaps look on the bright side of every situation in their life," Holbert

added. "She is a very optimistic within every circumstance."

For more information about this show, students can visit [ltwb.org](http://ltwb.org).

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## SG holds annual casino night



The Beacon/Jonathan Bowman

Student Government held their annual "Casino Night" last Friday March 25. Students gathered around a variety of casino-like games in hopes to win prizes including a flat screen TV, an iPod touch and other similar electronics. The event was held on the first floor of the Henry Student Center as well as the second floor ballroom.



## 'Rango': Unlikely animated hit with a Western feel

BY JORDAN RAMIREZ  
Correspondent

The moment the three-time Oscar-nominee Johnny Depp ("Edward Scissorhands," "Blow") teamed up with the twice-Oscar-nominated screenwriter John Logan ("Gladiator," "The Last Samurai") and his directing colleague Gore Verbinski ("Pirates of the Caribbean"), my expectations skyrocketed. After enjoying the film in IMAX, the way it was meant to be seen and heard, I had difficulty finding anything wrong with "Rango."

This film consists of aesthetically pleasing animation, wonderful voice work by a fine cast, a nostalgic and nearly perfect Western soundtrack from composer Hans Zimmer, and an impressively satirical and gripping script.

However, the most significant, yet generally unknown characteristic of this film is that "Rango" is certainly not only for children. This film encapsulates everything great that any finely made western has to offer and puts a fresh twist on it.

A little green (potentially) chameleon lives in a tank. He, an amateur thespian, is traveling in the backseat of his owner's car, desperately attempting to find himself.

Before he can figure himself out, he and his fish tank are flung from the vehicle and sent smashing to the road.

After receiving advice from a friendly local, the protagonist eventually stumbles into a secluded, drought-plagued town in the desert, suitably named "Dirt." Our hero walks into the nearest saloon and finds himself in one tough predicament. A regular at the bar asks "Who exactly are you?" After a brief period of thought, the little green lizard concocts a personality that is completely devoid of insecurities and is now a self-proclaimed Westerner; who would "kill a man before breakfast just to work up an appetite." Lastly, he adds: "Name's Rango."

Throughout the remainder of the film, we follow Rango on his quest to living up to his newly formed reputation and his hopeless attempts at finding some water for the citizens of Dirt.

The film is full of action, comedy, amphibious romance, and two delightfully satisfying cameos that are sure to please the older audience. In addition, the 2D textures and details in this film are virtually flawless. This is but another reason why Rango is so good. It does not choose to use an imperfect 3D technology that has seemingly taken over modern-day blockbusters.

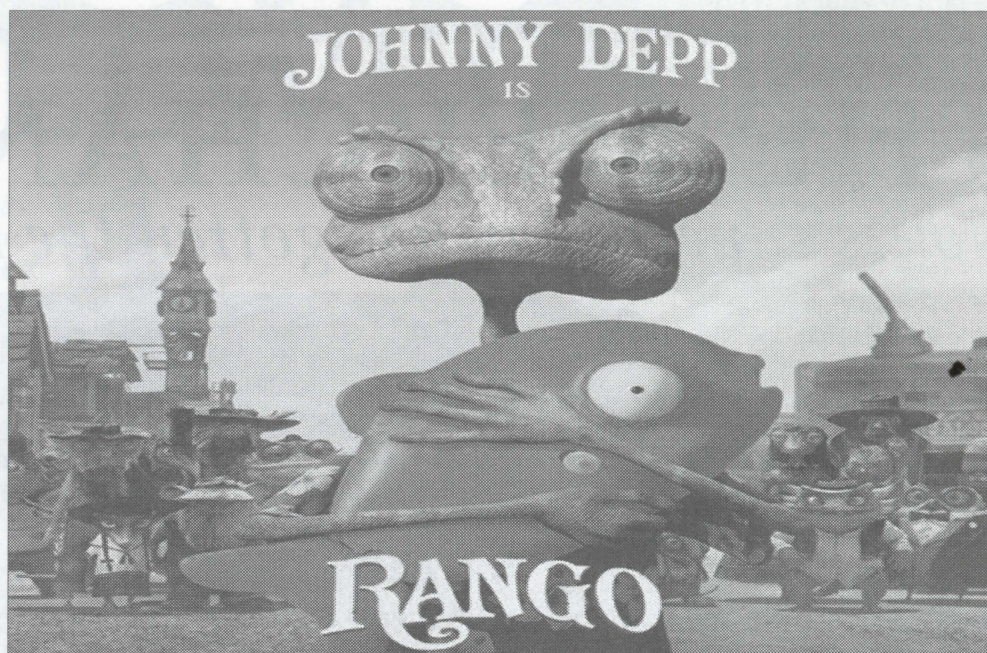


Photo Courtesy of Facebook

The film, which opened March 4, has been receiving great reviews and is at the top of the box office. "Rango" is rated PG and is playing in theaters everywhere.

The soundtrack is something to be excited about as well. With new content, as well as sprinkled with impeccably placed classics such as "Ave Maria," "Rango" boasts one of the best all-around soundtracks so far in 2011. Overall, "Rango" is a finely

scripted reinvention of the classic Western. This film has everything going for it and it simply should not be missed.

CONTACT JORDAN RAMIREZ AT:  
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MARCH 29, 2011

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# THE MERCHANT OF TENNIS

*Nolt's superb play has gotten the Lady Colonels off to strong start*

BY PHAT NGUYEN  
Assistant Sports Editor

Melanie Nolt's anticipated debut this season was no easy task. She faced one of her toughest opponents in the conference and walked away with a big 6-3, 6-2 win over Elizabethtown's Alena Marani.

"I was up 5-0 in the first set, then she starting pulling things together mentally, but I was able to out the set 6-3 and 6-2 the next set," said Nolt, a sophomore accounting and business major.

Nolt and Marani are among the league's best and they were set to meet in last fall in the MAC tournament, but Marani was out due to food poisoning. This win marked the first time they played each other, with Nolt coming out on top.

The match at Elizabethtown College was a little more than just a rivalry match, it was personal. Elizabethtown is just a short drive from Nolt's house in Manheim. She asked her closest friends and family to come support her biggest collegiate match ever.

"A lot of my friends had spring break that week or commute to Lancaster General," Nolt said. "I told them this is the

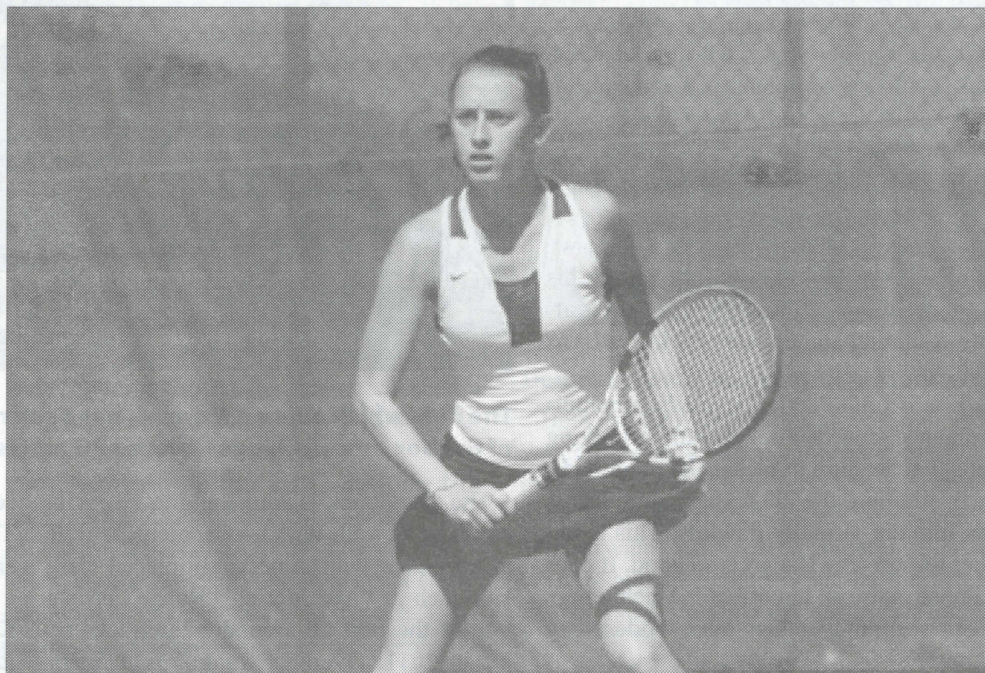


Photo Courtesy of Steve Finkernagel

**Melanie Nolt was named Freedom Conference Player of the Week for her efforts against Elizabethtown last week. She took down Alena Marani 6-3, 6-2.**

closest match I've ever had to home, so please come out to this."

She was very excited to see six of her closest friends, along with her aunts and uncles come out.

The win was also good enough to give Nolt and the Wilkes women's tennis team the honors of Freedom Conference player of the week for the second consecutive week. Last week's recipient Allison

Kristofco followed up her honors with a key win at the No. 2 spot against Madison Pipkin, winning 6-3, 6-4.

Given Nolt's success on the courts, you would think she's been playing tennis for most of her life. However, when she was in high school, she was more of a soccer and track athlete. In fact, as a sophomore she posted a 5:20 mile, only three seconds away from the school record. Her success as a runner and soccer player translated her into a hybrid tennis star.

"I was always athletic growing up, so that helps with tennis, but compared to most players I started late," Nolt said. "I just got bored of soccer, and I picked up a tennis racquet with my mom."

Nolt likes to use her fitness and athleticism to her advantage and it is evident in her game play. She grinds down her opponents mentally by making them run for their return shots, but she also likes to mix things up a bit.

"I enjoy hitting the unexpected shot, so when I'm on the run, and they're expecting the safe shot, I'll go for a down the line forehand," Nolt said. "Sometimes it pays off, and then sometimes you're like I guess I could've played it a little smarter,

**SEE NOLT, Page 19**

## Coombs and McCollum: A tale of two seniors

BY PHAT NGUYEN  
Assistant Sports Editor

Seniors Wes McCollum and Adam Coombs are the two seniors on the Wilkes men's tennis team. The two of them have been living as roommates for three years and have known each other since their freshmen year playing tennis.

Coach Chris Leicht has enjoyed working with both McCollum and Coombs their whole careers. He believes both seniors have worked very hard and have dedicated a lot to the tennis team.

McCollum and Coombs have three consecutive MAC championships under Leicht, and they have high hopes to send off their last year with a fourth consecutive conference title.

"It is pretty amazing that they will be going for their fourth conference title and NCAA berth," Leicht said. "They would be the first men in school history to accomplish this amazing feat."

McCollum, an accounting and business major, has had quite a bit of success on the courts. Ever since his freshman year, he has always been a very passionate and vocal player.

"Wes has always been very fiery on the tennis court," Leicht said. "He always brings a lot of emotion into his tennis matches, but he has matured a lot and is a major reason why our team has been so successful."

"I'm just going out to rack up the wins, get another MAC championship and try to make a trip to nationals for the fourth straight time," McCollum said.

Coombs, a business administration major, has recently been certified with the Professional Tennis Registry, which provides quality education, global certification and service to tennis teaching professionals and coaches.

"I got certified in skills corrections, grips and I learned a lot of knowledge of the game," Coombs said.

While Coombs is not a starter in the lineup, his presence and knowledge of the game is very helpful, especially now since he's PTR certified.

"Usually I let the coaches handle those decisions, but I've helped some of the teams in doubles from time to time," Coombs said. "If I see something I can correct, I won't hesitate to point it out."

In the doubles matches that Coombs had

played, he was victorious both times. One of those victories paired both the roommates as a team. The duo of McCollum and Coombs defeated a Lycoming team 8-1.

"We basically just kicked ass," Coombs said. "It was a fun match."

When asked if he would play with team up with Coombs again, McCollum had no hesitations.

"I wouldn't mind throwing down with Coombsy again," McCollum said. "Honestly, he probably has a better forehand than me. He rips his forehand. I'll give him some props. Doubles is more of his thing. I mean, he's got a power forehand."

**SEE TEAMMATES, Page 19**



Getting to know...

## JACKIE FOLLWEILER

Women's Softball

BY ANTHONY DORUNDA  
Special Projects Editor

Meet Jackie Follweiler, sophomore first baseman on the Wilkes University women's softball team. Follweiler played a huge role in the Colonel's win over Delaware Valley last Monday, helping secure their first win of the season. She's the sister of Wilkes football and baseball great Kyle Follweiler, but is carving out her own legacy as a star in her own right.

Age: 20

Major: Business

Hometown: Slatington, Pa.

**Your brother, Kyle, left quite a legacy at Wilkes. When you first came here, did people constantly ask you about him?** All the time. It was kind of a big change. My coach said 'If you're anything like your brother you'll be great.' Coming here and having that pressure to perform and continue the legacy seemed impossible.

**Does it get annoying hearing about your brother all the time?** At first it did, but I'm used to it. It was the same way in high school, too.

**Why did you come to Wilkes?** Well, I got offered to play softball here, so I wanted to do that. Plus, I already knew my way around with my brother having been here already, so it just kind of fit.

**You guys started off the season kind of slow. What was the team morale going into that first conference game with Delaware Valley?** Well, when we got back from spring break we were a little down. But our seniors said that we can start fresh, and new. And that's what we did. We were disappointed we lost the second game of the doubleheader, but at the same time we were glad to be able to get a win in there.

**That first game, you came out and were stroking the ball. You went 2-3 with three RBI's, tell me what was going right in that game? Especially when you came out and hit the walk-off single to get that first win?** I wasn't nervous or anything, I just knew that I had to get the run in. I concentrated hard and took the pitch to center. And luckily, we won because of it.

**Obviously, that at-bat gets noticed. What may not, however, is the play you made in the top half of that inning. Del Val hits a shot to center; the two girls on base come around. The first girl scores, the second one's coming in to score. You cut off the throw from center, and flip it to (Jordan) Borger to nail the girl at home. What's going through your head during that whole sequence?** I just knew that as soon as Abby (Agresti) got the ball hit to her I knew I was going to have to cut the ball off. I cut it off, and hoped that the flip would get there.

**Were you nervous the flip wouldn't make it?** I was a little bit. But we practice it every day, so I had confidence.

**Are you a movie fan?** Yea, I like comedy a lot. My two favorite movies are "How to Lose a Guy in 10

Days," and "Fool's Gold." I really like Kate Hudson, she's my favorite.

**What's your favorite restaurant?** Texas Roadhouse. Actually, the first time I ever went there I went with my brother. He saw the rattlesnake bites, and he literally thought they had real rattlesnakes in it.

**What did you say when he thought they actually had rattlesnakes in them?** I can't really say much to him because he always has a wise-crack remark. But I always bring it up to him when I can, and he always defends himself.

**For those of us who have never been, what exactly do you do for fun in Slatington?** Honestly, just hang out. There's not much. Fishing at the canal is something.

**So you're a fisher then?** Yea, and my brother just started getting me into hunting, so I do that too.

**You get anything?** No, it was horrible. I just went for the first time and it was not a great experience. But I'm into racing, too. We go every weekend over the summer. I raced when I was little, but now I go and watch Kyle race all the time.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?** The hunting and fishing part is probably very surprising. Not many females are like that, and not everyone knows about racing. Not many people would give up there summers to go watch their brother race every Friday and Saturday night.

**Jackie Follweiler in five words or less:** Too hard to handle.

*\*To read the entire interview, log-on to [www.wilkes-beacon.com](http://www.wilkes-beacon.com).*



The Beacon/Allison Roth



## SCOREBOARD

### MEN'S TENNIS

3/22 @ Bloomsburg L 2-7

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

3/22 @ Bloomsburg L 4-5

## WEEK AHEAD

### BASEBALL

3/28 vs King's (DH) 1:00 p.m.  
3/29 @ King's 3:30 p.m.  
4/1 vs. DeSales 3:30 p.m.  
4/2 @ DeSales (DH) 1:00 p.m.  
4/3 vs. DeSales 12:00 p.m.

### SOFTBALL

3/28 @ Eastern (DH) 3:00 p.m.  
3/31 @ Lebanon Valley (DH) 3:00 p.m.  
4/2 @ King's (DH) 1:00 p.m.

### MEN'S TENNIS

3/30 vs. PSU Berks 3:30 p.m.  
4/2 @ King's 1:00 p.m.  
4/3 vs. NYU 12:00 p.m.

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

3/30 @ PSU Berks 3:30 p.m.  
4/2 @ King's 1:00 p.m.  
4/3 vs. NYU 12:00 p.m.

### WOMEN'S LACROSSE

3/31 vs. Lebanon Valley 4 p.m.  
4/2 @ Alvernia 1:00 p.m.  
4/3 @ Marywood 2:00 p.m.

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# FACE OFF



## Who will win the 2011 World Series?

### A giant underestimation



Sports Editor

**CHRISTOPHER HOPKINS**

As the season gets underway this week, it becomes impossible to avoid the conversations of who will be taking home the prolific World Series crown. In a field that offers a wide array of talent from the teams that are playing in October every year to some surprise teams that will make a name for themselves late, this season looks to be as exciting as ever.

As a die-hard Yankee fan, I come into every season with high hopes for the Bombers and am always confident that come October, or more recently November, they will be the team hoisting the commissioner's trophy. However, in what is quickly becoming a pitcher-dominant league, it's going to be really tough for them to be the last ones standing this year.

Just about everywhere you look, experts and analysts are calling for a Phillies-Red Sox World Series matchup. This might seem like the right call, considering the winter seasons these

two teams had and the amount of talent on both rosters. However, because of this, I think one team is getting overlooked and almost forgotten, although deserving to be mentioned right there at the top. The San Francisco Giants were able to win the World Series title last season and look to leave camp with a roster very similar to the one they had last year, except with a new confidence and much more experience having gone all the way. Look for the Giants to repeat this season.

The Giants strong suit is no question their pitching rotation, who combined for a mere 3.54 ERA last year and held the opposition to a .236 average. Led by two-time Cy Young Award Tim Lincecum, this staff is without a doubt one of the best in baseball. Matt Cain looks to continue to grow and become 1A in the rotation, as his skills keep getting better. Followed by young Jonathan Sanchez, who already has a no-hitter under his belt, and Madison Bumgarner, who, at the age of 21, threw eight innings of three-hit shutout baseball in the World Series last year, this staff will only get better as they grow. Opposing batters are going to be having nightmares

about facing this team's pitching staff.

While the offense of San Francisco isn't the strongest, it is still respectable and good enough to provide enough runs for this team to win. While World Series MVP Edgar Renteria parted ways to join the upstart Cincinnati Reds, this offense should still provide enough force to support their pitchers. Rookie of the Year Buster Posey has had a stellar spring, hitting .415 with 10 RBIs. Only 24 years old, Posey has shown that he has what it takes to lead this talented pitching staff behind the plate, all while hitting exceptionally well for a catcher. He shows no signs that he'll have a sophomore slump and should be the key to this lineup. Mix in powerful Aubrey Huff and Pat Burrell, "Kung Fu Panda" Pablo Sandoval, who with his off-season weight loss should have a bounce back year, and fleet footed Andres Torres and you have a pretty decent lineup.

So in the season following the proclaimed "Year of the Pitcher," look for the San Francisco Giants, with a monster pitching staff, a powerful lineup and a hometown hungry for another World Series to take home the title again this season.

### I'm shipping up to Boston



Assistant Sports Editor

**PHAT NGUYEN**

No team did more to improve their entire roster in the 2010-11 off-season than the Boston Red Sox, which is why I have them as the favorites for the 2011 World Series.

Granted the Phillies did pick up Cliff Lee, but I don't see how that really helps them. Their post season pitching was not their problem, but their hitting, which was completely shut down by the San Francisco Giants last year, was. Yes, they add Lee, who is a very good pitcher, but they lose Jayson Werth and look to replace a currently injured Chase Utley with 35 year old Luis Castillo and expect prospects to help step up carry their offense. I don't see how that puts you as a post season favorite coming into this year, although I will acknowledge their starting pitching should be very good.

The Sox were already a pretty good team, and signed the best position player available in Tampa Bay's Carl Crawford, traded for an MVP candidate in San Diego Padres'

first baseman Adrian Gonzalez. With the complete recovery of former MVP second baseman Dustin Pedroia and perennial all-star Kevin Youkilis, the team looks forward to much success this season.

Let's not forget for all their injuries last year, the Sox still scored the second-most runs in the American League with 818, a total that the club should easily be able to exceed with the additions of Crawford and Gonzalez. With just a return to health of several core players, the Sox should easily be better than last year's team who quietly went 89-73.

I just really like the Sox's chances this year. They just seem to be doing everything right so far. Theo Epstein is coming off arguably his best offseason ever, with the addition of two major role players to the lineup while making several steps towards improve the bullpen.

The bullpen looks much better with the addition with veteran pitchers in Bobby Jenks and Dan Wheeler. While Jenks has been in somewhat of a decline in his stats, he and Wheeler should add more experience to that bullpen setting up Josh Bard and Jonathan Papelbon. Even though Pa-

pelbon had somewhat of an off year last season, I expect him to recover and regain his old form especially since he is in a contract year.

Players from Dustin Pedroia to Jacoby Ellsbury to Kevin Youkilis to Marco Scutaro reported that their 2010 injuries were fully healed. Even, Josh Beckett reportedly said he felt great in preseason play. I expect Daisuke Matsuzaka and John Lackey to improve upon their starts from last year, and I don't see any signs of Clay Buchholz and Jon Lester slowing down.

Crawford and Gonzalez give the Sox a lineup of five lefties and a switch hitter. Look for Francona to counter that by playing Mike Cameron, Darnell McDonald, Jed Lowrie and Jason Varitek in some combination against tough lefties.

That bench and just about every aspect appear improved and seem better than what the Sox had last year. I'm just looking at the facts here, and I don't think any team right now has positioned their squad as the early favorites for the season more than the Boston Red Sox. If they can stay healthy, only time will tell how good they really can be.



## NOLT

Continued from Page 16

but if you're going to beat me you're going to have to out grind me."

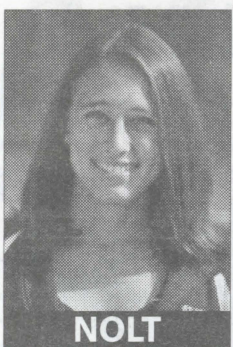
A lot of the competition has not been able to out grind Nolt, who has been sensational ever since she started her as a freshman year, where she worked her way into the #1 position. Coach Chris Leicht notes that Nolt has been a great addition to the tennis program at Wilkes.

"Melanie helped lead our team to the best season ever last year, including a conference championship and berth in the NCAA National Tournament," Leicht said. "Our team won a match at NCAA's for the first time, advancing to the second round."

Nolt, who is no stranger to success, has already won four MAC individual titles and last year was named Freedom Conference Player of the Year. Coach Leicht has no trouble keeping her motivated at practice.

"We have a very strong women's team, so Melanie is constantly challenged in practice," Leicht said. "She works very hard, and continues to improve each day."

Last Tuesday, the lady Colonels near-



NOLT

ly upset the Division-II powerhouse Bloomsburg Huskies, losing only 4-5. Nolt believes the team is much stronger now, as they lost 0-9 last year.

"Going 4-5 against Bloom with two freshmen and losing one senior is actually pretty good," Nolt said. "Obviously we are stronger than last year, by far."

The girls' eventual goal is still going to nationals. Last year they made it past the first round, but they were worn out after playing hard. This year they have been working out with Nationals in mind.

"We made it to Nationals last year, but after the first day we were probably the soriest people you met in your whole life out there," Nolt said. "This year we are focusing more on conditioning by doing two mile runs and sprints, but that's just one thing we have been working on. When we get to nationals we know everyone is going to have a good match, and we want everyone to be in tip-top shape."

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The Beacon/Phat Nguyen

Adam Coombs and Wes McCollum have been roommates and teammates for three years.

## TEAMMATES

Continued from Page 16

"He's probably right," Coombs said. "A lot of it is mostly from experience."

Manhattanville is the men's big matchup of the season and was set for this past Saturday, but it was postponed due to cold weather. The match itself is rather critical as it determines home court advantage for the playoffs. Given a win or loss,

chances are high that both teams will see each other again in the MAC championships.

"We will probably be playing them again in the final, but I would rather be playing them at home," McCollum said. "Our crowds get pretty big, but theirs are pretty big too, so we don't want to play over there, it's a hostile environment."

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# Poor weather wreaks havoc on softball schedule

## Lady Colonels now face grueling stretch of 12 games in 8 days

BY CHRISTOPHER HOPKINS  
Sports Editor

By design, the game of softball is one that – for the most part – can be played consecutively without fatigue becoming a major factor. Unlike contact sports like football, there is down time between action and time to recover between innings. However, due to the recent spring snowstorms postponing games, the Wilkes softball team faces a stretch that would be a challenge for anyone.

Beginning on March 31, the team is scheduled to play 12 games in eight days.

With three doubleheaders postponed last week because of inclement weather, the Lady Colonels now face a schedule that includes five road trips. Coach Frank Matthews isn't bothered by the amount of away games, noting that trips to King's and Scranton are essentially home games.

The Lady Colonels have struggled to get off on the right foot this season, starting 1-9, with their win coming in a split of a double header against conference rival Delaware Valley on March 21, winning the first game on a walk off single by Jackie Follweiler. The Colonels dropped the second game by a score of 14-7.

After having so much time off due to the cancellations because of inclement weather where they played just once between March 21 and March 31, the Lady Colonels will have to change their preparations as they get set for this tough stretch.

"In spans like these where we have a lot of games in just a few days we really hone in on something that needs to be fixed and work to improve upon it in the limited practice time we have," senior pitcher Lindsay Behrenshausen said. "It is important for each player to stay focused on the task at hand because practice time is so limited. Practice time is precious in these short spans with so many games so we must take advantage of every minute."

Matthews recognizes that such a stretch could pose an issue with players staying fresh and plans to work practices to make sure everyone stays focused and ready to play. Unlike its counterpart, baseball, softball pitchers can go for long stretches at a time, often pitching twice in one day. However, the task of 12 games in eight days could be a lot for a roster with only three pitchers.



Photo Courtesy of Steve Finkernagel  
**Jackie Follweiler drove home the winning run for the Colonels on Monday, March 21, a week before they would play their next game because of the weather.**

"We'll probably give them (March) 29 off as well as April 4 and any other time they need," Matthews said. "Practice time will be reduced to maybe an hour or so. The only question I would have will be the pitching. We have three pitchers and all of them have to be ready to rotate."

"As a pitcher, these spans are very crucial," said Behrenshausen. "I'm throwing a lot of pitches and it's important for me to always be on top of my game. It is important to take good care of my arm - proper stretching, icing it after games and keeping it warm between innings. I can't focus on how many games are being played but instead focus on each pitch and making it the best to help my team."

In addition to Behrenshausen, the Lady Colonels carry two other pitchers on their roster, junior Heather Compton and Freshman Alysha Bixler. Matthews said he will look to them to step up big and work through the tough stretch of games.

As student-athletes, so many games back to back could present a problem off the field, especially with a sport that is

played during the day, with their conflicting class schedules. With many of these games being non-conference matchups, Matthews has said he will give his players time off from the games to attend important classes.

"I'll allow the players to attend classes and make the games that they can as long as we have 12 players at the game," Matthews said.

With the way the softball schedule is set up, games are played as part of a doubleheader, creating long days for the players on the field. This can create problems with the players own schedules, but Matthews recognizes the other commitments the players may have and will let them attend classes as they need, while still keeping a full lineup.

It would seem like the Lady Colonels have a lot ahead of them in order to get ready for the upcoming stretch. However, Matthews sees the demanding schedule as a good opportunity for his team.

"It's a lot better to be playing than practicing," Matthews said. "Everyone should just take it one pitch at a time. If they're an athlete, they will be ready for each day. Competition is competition."

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## BY THE NUMBERS

# 12

Games that the Lady Colonels are slated to play in eight days, spanning from March 31 until April 6.

# 10

Games that the Lady Colonels had played up until this week. Their season started on March 4 in a tournament in Virginia Beach.

# 3

Pitchers on the Wilkes roster. With such a condensed schedule, these pitchers will have to keep fresh when called upon.

# 2

Off days scheduled during the upcoming stretch. The Lady Colonels plan to keep practices simple and light during these days to keep fresh for games.

